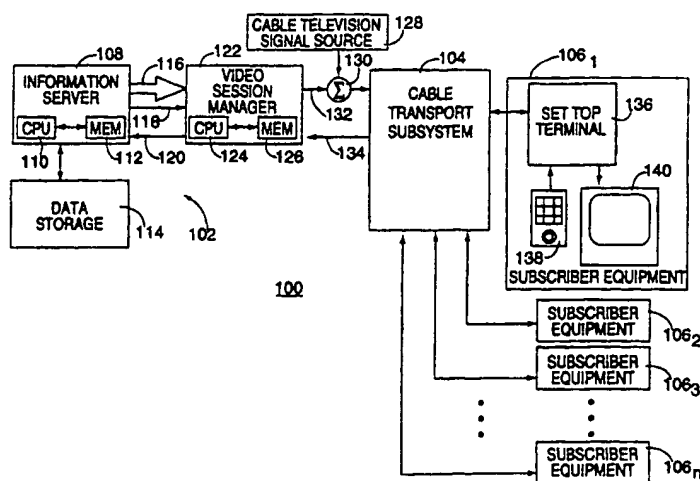




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(71) Applicant: DIVA SYSTEMS CORPORATION [US/US]; Building 203, 333 Ravenswood Avenue, Menlo Park, CA 94025 (US).		Published With international search report.	
(72) Inventors: GORDON, Donald; 216 Locust Street, Pacific Grove, CA 93950 (US). GOODE, Christopher; 722 Creek Drive, Menlo Park, CA 94025 (US). THOMAS, Philip, A.; 1410 Cedarmeadow Court, San Jose, CA 95131 (US). CONOVER, Mark, D.; 10721 Wunderlich Drive, Cupertino, CA 95014 (US). COLE, Brooks; 65 Third Street, Point Reyes Station, CA 94956 (US).		(88) Date of publication of the international search report: 22 October 1998 (22.10.98)	
(74) Agent: TONG, Kin-Wah; Thomason & Moser, 2-40 Bridge Avenue, P.O. Box 8160, Red Bank, NJ 07701 (US).			

(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PROVIDING A MENU STRUCTURE FOR AN INTERACTIVE INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM



(57) Abstract

A method and apparatus for providing an interactive menu structure within an interactive information distribution system (100). The menu structure is embodied in a combination of software, which provides a so-called navigator and a set top terminal (136) that provides certain functionality for the set top terminal. The menu structure has each menu (e.g., menu instructions, graphics and video) contained in downloadable applets (300) which are sent upon request from the service provider equipment (108) to the set top terminal for display. As such, the navigator functions are actually distributed between the service provider equipment and the subscriber's equipment (106). Such distribution provides an enjoyable, real-time interactive session that allows the user to rapidly navigate through a plethora of menus to find particular information which they desire to view.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US97/22850**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**

IPC(6) :H04N 5/50, 5/445, 7/10, 7/14.

US CL :348/569, 563, 12, 13.

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 348/569, 563, 12, 13, 564, 589, 600

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5,585,866 A (MILLER ET AL.) 17 DECEMBER 1996, COL. 7, LINE 45, TO COL. 36, LINE 58.	1-27
X, P	US 5,594,509 A (FLORIN ET AL.) 14 JANUARY 1997, COL. 7, LINE 60, TO COL. 25, LINE 25.	1-27

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Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Box PCT Washington, D.C. 20231 Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230	Authorized officer MICHAEL LEE Telephone No. (703) 305-4743

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